



U.S. Boater & Marina Tip Sheet for Preventing Marine Debris

What You Can Do:

While treaties, laws and regulations are vital tools in combating the marine debris problem, individual action to curb marine debris is just as important, if not more so. People who enjoy boating and its related activities can help reduce the amount of marine debris that enters the oceans and waterways by following these guidelines:

Boaters

- **Bring ALL of your trash back to shore** and collect any debris that you find in or near the water and dispose of it properly.
- **Properly stow and secure all trash on your boat** so that it won't be blown or washed overboard.
- **Follow the marine debris regulations required by Annex V of MARPOL.** Remember that it is illegal to dispose of any plastic materials into any navigable waters of the United States.
- **Reduce, reuse, recycle.** Purchase reusable products and containers and recycle your plastic, metal, glass and paper products – including monofilament fishing line.
- **Support environmentally responsible marinas.** Encourage your docks, marinas, fishing piers and boat ramps to provide adequate trash cans and recycling bins.



Marinas

- **Set up and clearly label recycling bins for staff and customers.** Call your local department of environmental protection to find out what materials can be recycled in your area.
- **Encourage boaters to set up an onboard system to segregate trash** for easy disposal and recycling on shore.
- **Empty trash cans, dumpsters and recycling bins regularly.**

Report any illegal dumping you witness on the water or at a marina to your local U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Office on VHF marine radio Channel 16 or call the USCG National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 to locate the Sector Office near you.

